

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 711

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Lance Murphy Clark of Cookeville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Lance Corporal Lance Murphy Clark, a courageous member of the United States Marines who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which Cookeville, Putnam County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, Lance Corporal Clark was a brave and honorable member of the United States Marines, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Pendleton, California; and

WHEREAS, Lance Clark, who was twenty-one years of age, lost his life in Anbar Province, Iraq, on September 7, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Clark graduated from Cookeville High School in 2004 and joined the U.S. Marines in April of 2005; he completed basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California; and

WHEREAS, an avid sportsman, Lance Clark enjoyed hunting and fishing, as well as other sports, and was an excellent marksman who won several awards as a Marine for his shooting skills; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Clark was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and like thousands of others of this great nation's sons and daughters, Lance Clark did not shrink from serving in combat; he believed in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, Lance Clark's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured

the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Lance Clark is survived by his parents, John Dale and Susie Scott and Jackie and Pam Clark; brother, Travis Lee Clark; step-brothers, Greg and Jason Scott, and Kevin and Adam Huff; and his maternal grandmother, Jessie Carmack Murphy; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Donald W. Murphy, and his paternal grandparents, Lanzy and Opal Clark; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Clark was an active and devout member of Eastwood Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Lance Corporal Lance Clark, United States Marines, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lance Corporal Lance Murphy Clark, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Marines, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Clark.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.